



RABBIS

Marshall T. Meyer (1985-1993)

J. Rolando Matalon • Marcelo R. Bronstein • Felicia L. Sol

CANTOR & MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ari Priven

MARSHALL T. MEYER RABBINIC FELLOWS

Rabbi Kliel Rose • Katie Mizrahi

March 4 - 11, 2005

23 - 30 Adar 5765

VAYAKHEL

TORAH

ANNUAL: Exodus 35:1 - 38:20

TRIENNIAL: Exodus 35:1 - 37:16

HAFTARA: I Kings 7:40 - 50

NEXT WEEK: PEKUDEI

SHABBAT SHEKALIM - ROSH HODESH

TORAH

ANNUAL: Exodus 38:21 - 40:38

TRIENNIAL: Exodus 38:21 - 39:21

HAFTARA: II Kings 12:01 12:17, Isaiah 66:01 and 66:23

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service

6:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

Wandering Minyan

6:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

6:45 PM – 86th St.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

Shabbat Service

9:30 AM – 86th St.

Junior Congregation

10:30 AM – 88th St.

Children's Service

10:45 AM – 86th St.

Naming

Ruby and Eislyn Zaks

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

Morning Minyan

9:30 AM – 88th St.

Beit Midrash with Na'amah Kelman: Session 1

6:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

MONDAY, MARCH 7

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

Beit Midrash with Na'amah Kelman: Session 2

7:00 PM – 88th St. Sanctuary

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

1st Grade Families Cook for the Shelter

5:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

Geshar

5:00 PM – BJ Office.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

Kesharim

2:00 PM – 88th St.

Limud: Deepening our Spiritual Practice II

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon

6:30 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

Judith Bernstein Lunch Program

12:00 PM – 88th St. Frankel Hall

Limud: Parashat HaShavu'a

MTM Rabbinic Fellow Katie Mizrahi

7:00 PM – BJ Office

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

Morning Minyan

7:30 AM – 88th St.

SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK

You can make a difference April 7, 7PM, 88th Street.

RSVP REQUIRED: x396

NYC Council Speaker Gifford Miller is coming to BJ to talk to us about his agenda-and ours. Ours includes women's rights, public education, fair trade coffee and health care access.

Speaker Miller has the power to help enact or stall the NYC Health Care Security Act and we have the power to influence his decision-but only if we pack the sanctuary and demonstrate our commitment.

TAKE ACTION:

1. RSVP for April 7 (and bring 2-3 friends) x396
2. Write a letter to Speaker Miller (see flyer)
3. Join our Event Mobilization Team

SEE ATTACHED FLYER FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Creating Meaningful Shabbat Observance for the 21st Century

The BJ prayer service and rabbinic inspiration have been a pathway for modern seekers to discover and renew our Jewish spirituality. Yet, our tradition imagined Shabbat as a 25 hour experience, including not only prayer, but celebration, study, spiritual renewal and connection to loved ones. This Shabbat observance has sustained the Jewish People throughout our history because it is an eternal manifestation of our relationship to God – ot he l'olam, an eternal sign– as we recite each Friday night. Through a new initiative – Creating Meaningful Shabbat Observance for the 21st Century – our Rabbis and Board seek to engage the community in a discussion about our current practice and what we dream of. How can we claim our eternal inheritance with observance that is meaningful in our contemporary lives? If we imagined having a full day of Shabbat, what would it look like? Over the next six months, we hope to hold house meetings with diverse segments of the BJ community using the Panim el Panim model of community conversation to develop a path to modern Shabbat practice for our congregation.

If you wish to be invited to a house meeting on one of the following dates, please choose 2 or 3 available dates and email Deborah Pinsky at dpinsky@bj.org: 3/9, 3/16, 3/30, 4/5, 4/20, 5/2, 6/1, 6/8 and 6/16.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAMAKOM YENAHM

The community of B'nai Jeshurun extends sincere condolences to Abigail Moore and her family on the death of Abigail's beloved mother, Elaine Pohl Moore.

MAZAL TOV

• Zosia and Gena Zaks and their families on the naming of their daughters Ruby and Eislyn Zaks.

B'RUKHIM HABA-IM

• Rabbis Howard Ruben, Joshua Caruso, High School Coordinator Dara Holop and Confirmation Class, Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, Beachwood, Ohio.
• Rabbi Jordan Friedman and Shayna Friedman, Rabbi Steven Foster and Joyce Foster and Confirmation Class, Congregation Emanuel,

Denver, Colorado.

• Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum and Susan Greenbaum, Congregation Beth Israel, Carmel, California.
• Rabbi Stanley Miles and Confirmation Class, Temple Shalom, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
• Rabbi Jonathan Katz and Confirmation Class, Temple Achduth V'Sholom of Fort Wayne, Indiana.
• Rabbi Ari Goldstein, Director of Education Elyn Becker and Confirmation Class, Temple Beth Shalom, Annapolis, Maryland.
• Rabbi Sharon Marcus and 10th grade Confirmation Class, Park Synagogue, Cleveland Heights, Ohio.
• Rabbi Mark Shapiro and Confirmation Class, Sinai Temple, Springfield, Massachusetts.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

• Women's Rosh Hodesh Group Shabbat Dinner

Friday, March 11: Join us in a BJ member's home to celebrate Shabbat and welcome in the 2nd month of Adar. The dinner will be a potluck and each BJ member will contribute a dairy/vegetarian dish for the Shabbat meal. To RSVP for the dinner and let us know what you are going to bring, please email womansnews@aol.com. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis and for BJ members only. Confirmations and location will be emailed by March 8.

• Susannah Heschel at BJ

Monday, March 21, 7PM, 88th St.: Susannah Heschel will lead an informal discussion of *The Sabbath*, by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Those who have read the book are invited to express their understandings of it and describe its meaning for them. The discussion is open to everyone.

• BJ's 1st Annual Benefit Concert and 180th Anniversary Kick-Off

Tuesday, May 24, 7:30PM: SAVE THE DATE for a joyful night of music to launch our 180th Anniversary Year! The BJ Benefit Concert honoring Judith Stern Peck. Stay tuned for more details. To volunteer or for info: x392.

• Purim at BJ

Thursday, March 24, At 88th Street: Come learn everything you always wanted to know about Purim with the world premier of "The History of Purim Part I". Tots celebration and costume parade: 5:30PM. Family Service & Play: For children in K-7, 6:00 – 8:15 PM. At SPSA: You've seen American Idol on TV, now join us for "Purim Idol"

hosted by Judy Gold and the Megillah Judges. Adult Service: full megillah will be told through a combination of reading, telling and chanting, along with our Purim Idol competition 6:30 – 10:30PM. Party with refreshments to follow. (You will be glad to know that this year we will not have entrance cards).

INTERFAITH

• Interfaith Intergenerational Shabbat Luncheon

Saturday, March 19, 88th Street Frankel Hall following Shabbat services: The Ledor Vador and Interfaith Committees have come together to offer a very special Shabbat luncheon, at which we are hosting guests from SPSA. Master Christian and Jewish storytellers Eric Alderfer and Arthur Strimling will entertain and engage us with stories and music of family and our collective histories. Please RSVP at x334, leaving the names of those who will be attending. Also, send a check for \$15/member or \$18/non-members with "Ledor Vador 3/19" on the memo line. Children are welcome to attend free of charge.

• An Evening with Rabbis Felicia Sol & Marcelo Bronstein: Life Cycle Issues

Thursday, March 31, 7:30PM, 88th Street Sanctuary: The Interfaith Committee invites you to join us for an evening with Rabbis Felicia Sol and Marcelo Bronstein, who will lead an interactive seminar about life-cycle issues with an emphasis on matters relating to interfaith families. Bring family and friends to discover how our lives are entwined through marriage, conversion, adoption, work and community. For more information about this event or the Interfaith Committee, please call the Interfaith hotline at x379.

LIMUD - WINTER/SPRING 5765

THE CONTEMPLATIVE PROCESS: A PATHWAY TO LIBERATION

Rabbis Rachel Cowan and Marcelo R. Bronstein

Four Tuesdays March 29 - April 19; 6:00-10:00PM, 88th Street Sanctuary. The class will consist of four workshops: an introductory session and three in house retreats of four hours of meditation exercises and dinner in silence. We would like to create a sacred space of peace and reflection without the need to leave the city. Cost: Free; registration required. Dinner charge is \$10 per session.

CODE: 512.

* To kick off the class please join us on **Tuesday, March 29th** for a very special concert in Celebration of Contemplative Practices. Come hear an Evening of Hebrew Chant with Yofiyah!, creator of Kabbalah Kirtan, a practice that blends call and response singing of powerful Hebrew text and names of God with joyous live music. Concert begins at 7:00PM sharp in the 88th Street sanctuary. Admission is Free.

*To register for all classes, please call x221,

Online registration and detailed course descriptions at:
http://www.bj.org/spring_limud.php

FROM REDEMPTION TO REVELATION:

CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE & SOCIAL JUSTICE MEDITATION
RETREAT: **April 29 - May 1 at Elat Chayyim**

Join Rabbis Marcelo Bronstein and Rachel Cowan at a unique retreat to explore contemplative practice as a resource for inspiring, supporting and sustaining wise social action. Through prayer, study, song and meditation, we will develop practices and cultivate awareness so that we are kinder, more compassionate and more effective activists, able to build communities of action that support their members in working together.

Note: This retreat can be taken in conjunction with the four part class entitled *Contemplative Process – A Pathway to Liberation*. Look for more information and applications on-line at www.bj.org soon.

BJ WOMEN'S RETREAT - APRIL 8-10

Join Rabbi Felicia Sol and MTM Rabbinic Fellow Katie Mizrahi on our Fourth BJ Women's Retreat. Information and applications are now available on-line at http://www.bj.org/womens_retreat.php

• **Co-sponsored Dance with Ansche Chesed: Square Dancing**
Sunday, March 6, Swing your partner! If square dance caller Allan Brozek can't get you dancing then you must not have feet. No partner, experience or reservations necessary. Lessons throughout the evening starting at 7:15PM at Ansche Chesed. Co-sponsored with B'nai Jeshurun. Free expert instruction (Reba Perez of Empire Dance & Allan Brozek). Free delicious refreshments, a super dance floor, a fantastic crowd and fun, relaxed spaces to sit and schmooze. Cost: \$20 (\$15 AC/BJ/Mosaic members) per dance. Volunteers are needed (in return for free admission). Contact Michael Brochstein at (212)678-7881 (before 9PM) to volunteer.

• **Oneg Shabbat**
Friday, March 11 following 6:45PM service at 86th St. Social Hall: After a long hiatus, march into spring with a new friend or special someone. Join our monthly gathering, refreshments served. See you there!

• **Basherte Workshop**
Sunday March 13, 11-3PM, 88th St. (Frankel Hall): Join Rosalie and Efraim as they lead one of their reknowned relationship workshops: "Aligning Your Desires for Mutually Satisfying Relationships" - Strategies for Winning at Love. Includes a light lunch. Cost: \$30/mem; \$40/non-mem. TO REGISTER: www.bj.org or send a check made out to Congregation B'nai Jeshurun: "Basherte Workshop 3/13/05". Note: All checks must be confirmed received by calling Michael at x260. Mail checks to: Attn: Michael, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, 2109 Broadway, Suite 203, NYC 10023. Include phone number! DEADLINE: March 8. Add \$5 after deadline and at the door if space available. Call x260 or email Michael at Mkelberg@BJ.org for info.

YOUTH & FAMILY EDUCATION

• **1st Graders and their Families Cooking for the Shelter**
 Tuesday, March 8, 5PM: 1st graders and their families are invited to help prepare a simple meal for the guests of BJ's Homeless Shelter. To volunteer, contact Beth Kern at beth.kern@att.net or (212) 724-5336.

• **Celebrate the Building of a Community**
Saturday, March 12, Parlor Room 86th St.: Teens from B'nai Jeshurun will run a special program for the children of BJ 3rd -5th grades. Using games, stories, songs and fun activities, we will imagine what it was like for the Israelites to come together as a community to build the Tabernacle. Join our planning committee or just volunteer on the 12th. COMMUNITY SERVICE CREDIT AVAILABLE. Contact Leah at leah.zimm@verizon.net for details.

• **BJ Youth Go to Israel**
 Join Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in partnership with IsraelExperts for a special birthright israel FREE 10-day trip to Israel for eligible 18-26 year olds. See www.bj.org "upcoming events" section for a for more information, details and how to register. Go to www.israelexperts.com and click on the "birthright israel" button or contact Kerrith Solomon ksolomon@bj.org or x253 with any questions.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

• **The Judith Bernstein Lunch Program Implements New Service!**
 In addition to our delicious meals, we are now providing a new service our 150+ weekly guests! Working in conjunction with CIDNY- Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York, we will offer Food Stamp pre-screening and informational sessions on the last Thursday of every month. We are now looking for volunteers who are willing to share their expertise on topics such as optometric care, dental hygiene or physical care. Please call Jenny Kraiem at X261 if you are interested!

• **The Shelter is back at SPSA March 9!**
 Beginning Wednesday, March 9th SPSA will house the BJ/SPSA Homeless Shelter on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Monday nights and Tuesday nights will remain at BJ 88th Street Frankel Hall. If you would like to volunteer to sleep over, cook a meal or simply place your name on a list of substitute volunteers, please contact recruitment chair, Robert Imershein, at rimershein@bj.org or (212) 339-4250.

• **Wanted: A Few Good Men**
 The Children's Action Hevra welcomes all BJ members who want to take part in the BJ/Ralph Bunche School Reading Partnership. We read with 1st and 3rd graders on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 - 10:30AM. Because many of our young partners lack male role models, we are especially interested in "a few good men" to join us as reading partners. If you have the time and the desire to make a difference in the lives of children, please call us at x301.

• **Panim el Panim: Women's Rights Hevra**
 The BJ Women's Rights Hevra is campaigning to: (1) help pass legislation in New York State to make emergency contraception (EC) available over-the-counter, and (2) educate pharmacists about EC. Emergency contraception is a back-up birth control method that can be used within 3-5 days of unprotected sex, contraceptive failure or sexual assault. EC is a safe and effective method to prevent unintended pregnancies. It reduces the risk of pregnancies by up to 89%. The abortion rate in Washington State decreased by 30% when EC (also called Plan B or the morning-after pill) went over-the-counter. For further information or to get involved in our efforts, call x369.

BJ COMMUNITY/ HAVUROT

• **New Jersey Havurah in Formation**
Saturday, March 5: Looking for BJ members who live "west" of the river! We are forming a new havurah of New Jersey members. If you live in NJ, please come to our first for dinner and havdalah to get to know one another and develop a meaningful community of friendship, learning and fun. Call Ann & Henry Schwartzstein for more information: (973) 720-9455.

• **Couples Havurah in Formation**
Wednesday, March 23, 7PM (organizing meeting). We are assembling a group of BJ member couples who are interested in creating meaning and connection by coming together for Friday night dinners once a month. Start the spring off right by refreshing your social circle! Send an RSVP to Markschlei@hotmail.com with your names, telephone and email. For info call Mark or Vivien at (212)861-9887 or (212)861-9892.

Rabbi Shefa Gold

• **In concert Tuesday March 22**, 8PM, 225 West 83rd. Shefa Gold, whose melodies are used often at BJ, is giving an intimate evening of song and chant to benefit ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal. ALEPH supports the worldwide Jewish renewal movement by organizing and nurturing communities, developing leadership, liturgy and resources, and by working for social and environmental justice. Minimum donation \$50 (\$40 if sent by March 15). Flyer and registration form at back of sanctuary, or www.aleph.org/retreats.html, call (212) 665-3127 or email Bena/David: shefagoldevent@nyc.rr.com

• **Ecstatic Meditation Workshop Wednesday, March 23**, 6:30PM, New York Open Center (83 Spring Street): Rabbi Gold will lead an evening workshop exploring key elements of this meditative practice. Info at www.opencenter.org Cost: \$30.

• **Seeking Divrei Torah**

You have an opportunity to be one of 54 teachers of Torah in our community this year! Throughout the year, as you know, a weekly d'var torah on the parashat hashavu'a is disseminated to our community. We have already found people to write divrei torah for some of this year's parashiyot, but there are still many openings for BJ members (first come, first serve). If you are a BJ member and would be interested in writing a d'var torah, please call or e-mail Miya (x256 or mrotstein@bj.org) as soon as possible.

• BJ's **Shabbat Torah Study** is starting up again! Please find Shelly at the back of the sanctuary on Shabbat for more information.

We attempt to be as accurate as possible concerning the information contained in the Kol Jeshurun. Due to the tight deadlines under which we work, errors can sometimes occur. We apologize in advance for any mistakes. If you need any Hebrew words translated, please call Rabbi Kliel Rose, x264.

TSUNAMI RELIEF

In the wake of the terrible tragedy in Asia, our community can best respond through donations to the relief effort. Please go to www.bj.org for a list of agencies helping to provide basic medical and relief needs for the survivors.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kol Jeshurun Layout and Editing: Miya Rotstein

WELCOME TO B'NAI JESHURUN! If you are unfamiliar with our services, see our "Welcome to BJ" brochure at the back of the sanctuary, or ask an usher.

• **Membership at B'nai Jeshurun:** Are you considering joining BJ? Would you like information about becoming a member? BJ is also pleased that visitors choose to connect with us when they are in town. Why don't you consider joining our community as a BJ Friend? Contact Membership Director Belinda Lasky at x224 or blasky@bj.org

• **A Note from the Ushers:** For those at the Friday night service at 88th St., please bring your books to the back as you leave. Place damaged books or tallitot in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary. We ask that men wear kippot upon entering the sanctuary and during services. We do not allow food in the sanctuary. So that we may prepare for the comfort and security of all, doors open 30 minutes before the services begin.

BJ GOES TO ISRAEL FOR 180TH ANNIVERSARY IN DECEMBER

For its 180th Anniversary, BJ has decided to take 180 members of all ages to Israel from December 21st, 2005 to January 1st, 2006. For all those who were planning to take the trip this summer, please join us in celebration of our 180th in Israel this winter instead. More details to follow.

FOCUS ON ISRAEL

HOPE AND FEAR
By Amir Shaviv

Hope and fear, weaved inseparably together, mark the mood in Israel today. The almond tree blossoms, dotting the land along the roads, reflect the hope: perhaps the new Palestinian government and the "newly reformed" Israeli Prime Minister can put an end to the four-year nightmare that tortured us all, Israelis and Palestinians. The fear, on the other hand, stems from the same bitter nightmare: after experiencing the abyss of the Intifada -- can we trust the other side? Can we trust ourselves? Are we still capable of looking hopefully forward, rather than fearfully back?

In Jerusalem, last Sunday evening, I sat one table away from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who came directly from the historic cabinet meeting that confirmed the disengagement. Looking tired but determined, he read his statement in Hebrew and English, stressing that this was the most difficult decision he had to make in his 50-year military and political career. In front of us I saw a statesman, not a politician, a man taking the road not taken, paying the price of isolation in his own party, jeopardizing his career and endangering his very life. A politician would never take this road. This is the conduct of a statesman who is truly concerned about the well being of his nation in the next generation, rather than his own well-being in the next election.

Will the hope tip the balance and drive away the fear?

Amir Shaviv, an executive of the Joint Distribution Committee, was in Israel with a mission of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations.

The "Focus on Israel" column is edited by Robin Fleischner (robin.fleischner@verizon.net), Co-Chair of the BJ Israel Steering

PLEASE SEE THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY FOR FLYERS AND MORE INFO ON:

• Welcome to BJ • Membership at BJ • Membership Packets • BJ Annual Catalogue • Limud Catalogue • Bikkur Holim • New Havurot Applications